

Curious

G E N U I N E

163

M E M O I R S

O F

Two 12

MESSIEURS PERREAUS;

(Now under CONFINEMENT.)

W I T H

Many CURIOUS ANECDOTES relative to
MRS. RUDD;

THAT HAVE NEVER BEFORE TRANSPIRED.

By a GENTLEMAN ~~very~~ INTIMATE with the
UNFORTUNATE FAMILIES.

L O N D O N :

Printed for G. ALLEN, No. 59, Pater-noster Row,

[Price ONE SHILLING and Six-PENCE.]

JUL 9 1929

July 9. 1929.

A D D R E S S
FROM THE
E D I T O R
TO THE
R E A D E R.

A Gentleman, who appears intimately acquainted with Messrs. Perreaus, put the following sheets into the Publisher's hands, to communicate them to the Public; lest any Grub Street Garretter might fabricate a pamphlet to get a dinner and impose upon the world, and at the same time injure those gentlemen, who may, notwithstanding all that has been alledged against them, still prove innocent. With regard to Mrs. Rudd, he has treated her with the greatest delicacy and politeness; considering her sex as a sufficient protection against any severities that he might

vi TO THE READER.

might have thrown out against her; and though, as the narrator of truth, he could not conceal some anecdotes, which the world have not yet been acquainted with, he, nevertheless, gives them in such a stile, as cannot offend her nicest feelings. If he does not applaud her conduct upon every occasion, he, nevertheless, sympathizes for her misfortunes. The Author, living at some distance from the metropolis, and not having an opportunity of superintending the press, some inaccuracies may have slipped in; but as these consist, probably, of names of persons or streets; the reader will easily, and, it is to be hoped, readily rectify them, without imputing them to the ignorance of the Author.

The chief inducement of the Editor, to hasten this little production for general inspection, was the uncommon inveteracy which has prevailed in all that has hitherto appeared in print upon this occasion. Whether Messrs. Perreaus are guilty or innocent, the Editor of these sheets will not pretend to prejudge

TO THE READER. vii

prejudice—but in the eye of the law every man is innocent till he is convicted of any crime; and common humanity pointed out an impartial disquisition of the affair, by way of counterpoise to the rancour that has prevailed against them. It is very natural for the female sex to take the part of the ladies as well from inclination as interest, it being possible that it may sometimes happen, that they shall be in a similar predicament to the party concerned; and even in justice to the men, their affection is apt to be biased by their fondness for the female part of the creation. But in similar cases where life and death are concerned, we should endeavour to eradicate our partialities, and see through the medium of reason and justice.

The Editor will detain the Reader no farther in this place, than to assure him he has made no innovations or alterations in the manuscript transmitted by the above gentleman, who is an entire stranger to him.

MEMOIRS

OF

THE LIVES

OF

Mess. D. and R. PERREAU.

SO very extraordinary an affair as has lately been discovered, is not to be paralleled in the history of any time or any country. Forgeries, it is true, are very common, and have sometimes been successful; but that a series of frauds of this kind, for very considerable sums, should go undetected for many years, the parties continue to make a very splendid appearance, and remain upon a footing of intimacy and friendship with the persons they had repeatedly imposed upon, is really astonishing!

In a commercial country like England, where public credit and private property in a

B

very

very great degree depend upon paper currency, and where the fortunes of thousands may be destroyed in an hour, if a successful forgery was to prevail, too much attention cannot be paid to impositions of this sort, by every man of property, nor too much vigilance be exerted by the magistracy to detect them. It is not many years since forgery was made a capital offence, but the legislature perceiving the fatal tendency of this offence, judiciously framed a law to prevent it; and yet severe as the punishment now is, we find that this law has not proved effectual, as the many culprits who appear almost every sessions at the Old Bailey clearly evince. Some over refined moralists have nevertheless exclaimed against the severity and inhumanity of the sentence which punishes a man for only writing another person's name (*perhaps innocently*) as rigidly as a murderer, or a villain guilty of the most flagitious crimes. But let this clement philosopher be reminded, that the unhappy wretch, driven by the greatest distress, perhaps a sick wife and starving family, who takes from him only a shilling, is liable to be punished with death; and shall the man who robs another of four or five thousand pounds be considered less criminal? The means may vary

vary it is true; in the first instance they may only extend to words, in the latter only to writing; but if they produce the same effect, it is but just that the same consequences should ensue.

Having so far considered the nature of the offence that Messrs. Perreau are charged with, we shall now enter upon such memoirs of their lives, as we think will gratify the public curiosity, without designing any way to prejudice them in the opinion of the public, or that of their jury.

These gentlemen, who are of French extraction, were born at St. Christopher's, one of our West India islands, where their father, who originally kept a punch house there, having accumulated a considerable sum, commenced merchant and carried on an extensive trade. Being willing that his sons should figure in life in a genteel sphere, he sent them over to England to improve their education. After they had attained a proper age to consider of business, Daniel was placed in a merchant's compting house in the city, and Robert by choice was put

put apprentice to a chymist, in Panton Street near the Hay-market.

In these respective departments they both acquitted themselves to the utmost satisfaction of their respective masters, and being very attentive to business they became very expert in their different professions. Daniel made himself perfectly acquainted with the nature of trade and commerce in all its branches, penetrated all the arcana of the stocks with the finesses and subtilties of the alley ; whilst Robert made himself master of chymistry and pharmacy, and 'ere he was out of his time qualified himself for being a very good apothecary. Being twins, there was not only a great resemblance in their persons and physiognomies, but a striking similitude in their manners, dispositions and genius. They were affable, polite, and insinuating ; in a word, they seemed to have studied the graces, and learnt the art of pleasing and persuading. These talents cannot help recommending young men in life, especially when they are united to an agreeable person and a prepossessing figure. Such then were the Messrs. Perreaus when they started in life, the one an apothecary, the other a merchant.

A favourable

A favourable opportunity offering for Mr. Daniel Perreau to go over and settle at Guadeloupe, he embraced it and went thither, where he entered into partnership with Mr. J—. The house carried on a very extensive trade for some time, and Mr. Perreau was considered as a man of considerable property and unblemished probity; but a considerable failure occurring, in which their house was deeply connected, they were obliged to stop, and became bankrupts. This reverse of fortune induced Mr. Perreau to quit the Island and return to England, when he took lodgings at a pattern drawers, in Dean-street, Soho, and remained sometime incog. his certificate being not yet signed.

In the mean while Mr. Robert Perreau took a genteel house in Golden-square, where he practised as an apothecary, and soon obtained considerable practice; having not only uncommon merit in his profession, but such address and politeness (strong recommendations in his business) as greatly increased the number of his patients. Among the number of his female patients was a very amiable lady, whom he had cured of a very dangerous complaint, after it had baffled the skill of some of the most eminent

ment of the faculty. His judgment, added to the tenderness and attention he displayed upon the occasion, made a great impression upon his fair patient, and she entertained a strong partiality in his favour. Mr. Perreau soon perceived the impression he had made upon the lady, and did not fail improving the opportunity that offered for being united to so agreeable a partner for life. After a short courtship they were joined in the honourable bonds of matrimony, and were thought to be a very happy couple. His fortune being greatly improved by this marriage, he set up his chariot; and in proportion as the splendour of his appearance increased, his practice also extended, particularly among the nobility, with whom he was a great favourite. Happy had it been for him if his brother had not returned to England, as he then would not have turned his thoughts towards gambling in the Alley, but lived happily with an agreeable consort, in affluence and splendour, arising from his *own* business, which was now very considerable.

Daniel's fertile genius would not let him long lie dormant in obscurity; his knowledge of the mysteries of the Alley pointed out to him a road
for

for accumulating a large sum; but it was necessary to have a stock to begin with, as a broken merchant is no sort of recommendation at Jonathan's. Whilst he was ruminating upon the means of obtaining a sum to make a push with (for his brother, though in affluent circumstances, had no cash of any consequence to spare) chance threw Mrs. Rudd into his way. She was an agreeable woman, had a great share of vivacity, and found in Mr. Perreau a congeniality of disposition and sentiments, which forcibly recommended him to her. She was possessed of a considerable sum of money, and therefore became an object of his attention.

This lady is the natural daughter of a Scotch Nobleman, who gave her a genteel education, and when she came to maturity she married a lieutenant in the army, with whom she lived upon very good terms for some time; but the liveliness of her temper and the gaiety of her disposition exciting a jealousy in her husband, he parted from her, and left her to dispose of her favours as she thought proper. A woman suspected and deserted will naturally feel resentment animate her breast to deeds which she before shuddered at. Revenge is implanted in us,
and

and the female sex never lose an opportunity of resenting an injury. If at this crisis an agreeable man should step in, and add importunity to opportunity, what female heart can remain fortified against his assiduities? Probably this was Mrs. Rudd's situation, when Captain L——, who is not only a very handsome man, but also sensible and well bred, with an uncommon share of eloquence, found the avenues to her heart, and seized the valuable treasure. This connexion, if it ever took place, was not of long continuance, for the captain was ordered to his quarters, and Mrs. Rudd still remained in the metropolis,

A number of intrigues are from this time assigned her by the scandalous chronicle. She is one time made to assume the title of a Princess, and claim a kindred with a certain very exalted personage; then personate this princess's sister, in order to impose upon the same person, on whom she practiced the first deception. But common sense recoils at such absurdities, the imposition being too gross for even idiotism to be blinded with.

It is very certain that at this time she made an exceeding gay appearance, visited all public places,

places, had a great number of admirers among the men, and a number of jealous rivals among the women; she was toasted as a fine piece, and considered as an excellent companion; her presence was courted in all gay parties, for her sprightliness and ready repartee. It is certain she was no prude, but her conversation never exceeded the bounds of decency; and though she was not so squeamish as to blush at a double entendre, she never risked one that could offend the ear of decency. To draw her picture in a few words, she was a beautiful woman and an agreeable associate. No wonder then that she had many advantageous offers from men of rank and fortune; neither is it marvellous, that in her situation, she should listen to some of these proposals.

Such was the situation of Mrs. Rudd, when she was accidentally introduced to Mr. S—dere. He was immediately greatly smitten by her personal and mental charms, and offered her a *Carte-blanche*, if she would come and superintend his household. The bait was too tempting in her situation. Her mercer was pressing, her milliner was teasing, and her servants were tormenting. He enabled her to quiet them all, and restored

the tranquility of her mind, which nothing is more liable to disturb than clamorous creditors.

The more Mr. S—— was acquainted with Mrs. Rudd, the more he was enamoured with her. Her attentions, her assiduities, her sentiments, all coincided to make him the happiest man on earth. In a word his attention was so fixed on this amiable woman, that he forgot the concerns of the world; he forgot his own business, which, leaving to clerks, took a turn that no one (much less himself) could expect. The event is universally known and need not be repeated; reflexion usually follows misfortune, and we most frequently see our errors too late. He retrenched all his expences, disposed of his charming villa, and was compelled to refrain from the company of the very agreeable Mrs. Rudd.

It was at this period that Mr. Daniel Perreau became acquainted with her. Unconnected, unconstrained, he found her, in every respect, a woman completely to his mind, with her strong box well filled, and a spirit of generosity to unlock it in behalf of a man for whom she entertained a partiality—Daniel was the man.
The

The coffer was opened, and he made a splendid appearance in the alley. Fortune, who generally smiles upon young adventurers, particularly favoured him. For many months he was the luckiest man at Jonathan's; money flowed in so fast, that he scarce knew how to dispose of it. He asked his brother Robert if he wanted cash? at the same time flinging a handful of bank notes upon the table. Robert was amazed, knowing his brother's late distress; he enquired into the mystery, and was too fatally informed of the means of acquiring this wealth.

The reader has been already acquainted with the striking resemblance of the brothers, and the strong similitude of their sentiments; after this it will not appear astonishing that Robert should so rapidly catch the contagion of stock-jobbing, and immediately agree to go with Daniel into the alley. From this unhappy moment Robert's destiny was sealed. A variety of fluctuations succeeded, which but little affected their capital; but soon one unexpected stroke destroyed them. This was the convention relative to Falkland's Island, which was so fatal to many more as well as themselves; and which

is

is not in the least extraordinary, or can it impeach their judgment, when even the French A——r and his Secretary were taken in for many thousands, and on which account, several prosecutions are still carrying on in France, that have produced different memoria's which have been offered on both sides to the public, the Minister accusing the Secretary, the Secretary retorting on the Minister.

It should be remarked in this place that 'ere Daniel appeared in the alley, he had got his certificated signed, which enabled him to figure at Jonathan's without reproach; and this event took place only sixteen days before he formed his connexion with Mrs. Rudd, which was on the 20th of May, 1770.

A losing gambler is, perhaps, of all men in the world the most desperate. To reflect upon parting with his money, and to imagine the same road is open without a barrier to recover it, usually makes him rash enough to risk for more than he should to regain it. This was exactly the state of the Perreau's.—Falkland's Island had by this time cost them more than ever

ever it was worth, and they were still rash enough to play on in pursuit of speculative riches.

Expedients soon became necessary. Sir Thomas F——d was their particular friend, and Dr. B—— knew Robert's extensive practice, and judged that alone a sufficient security for any moderate sum. By this means they got bonds negotiated to a very considerable amount; their credit was, thereby, supported in the alley; Robert's reputation was maintained in trade; and they now shone with still superior lustre upon the bon ton. Daniel purchased an elegant house in —— street, for which he paid 4000*l.* which money he borrowed of Sir Thomas F——d. Robert gave routs, drums, and *burricanes*, following the example of his brother, and they had some of the first nobility for their guests.

The alley was not all this while favourable to them, and it was necessary that money should be raised by every possible expedient. Their own notes and bonds were on every side negotiated and dealt. There was scarce a banker in town at this time who would not have discounted a Daniel or Robert Perreau's note for almost any amount

amount. In the alley their reputation was established, and the idea of a lame duck, respecting either of them, was as distant from the thoughts of every one at Jonathan's as the Bank's breaking. They pursued their plan with such indefatigable ardour and industry, that they even baffled accident and misfortunes, and they seemed to rise superior to distress.

Mrs. Robert Perreau and Mrs. Rudd all this time lived upon the most cordial, the most intimate terms, and if they were not really sisters, no external appearances could possibly prepossess any one against Mrs. Rudd's situation. Every thing among them was in common, their jewels, their cloaths, their purse. They were, as the phrase is, sworn sisters, and if the matter of ceremony was laid aside on the part of Mrs. Rudd for reasons that are obvious, it must have appeared to Mrs. Robert Perreau, that it was a matter of mere ceremony.

In the year 1771 Mr. Daniel Perreau went over to France, Mrs. Rudd accompanying him. The cause of this tour was partly business. Mr. Perreau judging that he might be able to make connexions in that city, and thereby obtain intelligence

telligence concerning such transactions, as might affect the stocks in England ; and by establishing a regular correspondence with some intelligent persons there, receive from time to time such advice, as might enable him to play in the alley to the greatest advantage. It is certain that Mrs. Rudd found means to make acquaintance with one of Madame Barree's principal attendants, to whom she made many presents, and frequently regaled her and her acquaintance in a very sumptuous manner ; but whether this gentlewoman was soon after discharged from her employment, or whether she was incapable of penetrating any secrets that could be of any service in the operations at Jonathan's, is uncertain ; but the event has proved that whatever intelligence she may have communicated was of little or no service. However, if Mr. D. Perreau did not succeed in his design with regard to settling a beneficial correspondence at Paris, he and Mrs. Rudd amused themselves very agreeably, and in a few weeks spent upwards of seven hundred pounds, which was Mrs. Rudd's money. It is true that her natural turn for gaiety and dissipation, was now amply gratified, and she cannot blame Mr. Perreau for his extravagance upon this occasion, as he frequently remonstrated

strated to her upon their extravagant way of living, and the frequent *Petits Soupers* that they gave to a number of guests. But her ready imaginations always furnished her with an excuse; she replied "That if they did not keep up an intercourse with, and display their hospitality to people of certain rank, and in certain departments, it would be fruitless to think of reaping any advantage from their journey; and therefore it would be the most ridiculous economy imaginable to think of retrenching their expences whilst they remained at Paris." This argument had its weight with Mr. Perreau, and he could not reply to it.

In so gay and volatile a city as Paris, Mrs. Rudd could not fail making an appearance that attracted the eyes of the Parisians in all public places. *Qui est cette belle Anglaise?* (who is that handsome Englishwoman) was echoed on all sides; and her vanity was not a little gratified when even Princes of the Blood paid her this compliment. The Duke de B—— was so forcibly struck with her charms that he employed an able Mercury, whom he kept in constant pay, to make her some secret proposals. This Proteus could assume every dress and every character

rather to execute his projects. He was in reality the Duke's Valet de Chambre; but upon this occasion he assumed the profession of an itinerant Jeweller. He waited upon Mrs. Rudd one morning, to know if her *Ladyship* wanted any thing in his way; when being introduced to her, after displaying his portable magazine of jewels, and finding Mrs. Rudd was vastly taken with a very handsome pair of diamond ear-rings, he took a pretext for precipitately retiring, leaving her in possession of the jewels, and a card upon the table intimating that the Duke de B—— flattered himself that Mrs. Rudd would do him the honour of wearing those ear-rings. She was greatly astonished to find the supposed Jeweller did not return, and still more so at perusing the card. The Duke sat by her a few nights after at the opera, and then declared to her his passion, at the same time proposing such terms as few women would have refused; but in justice to Mrs. Rudd it must be owned she rejected all his proposals, and never after saw the Duke.

Upon their return to England, flushed with the hopes of making some capital strokes in the alley, by means of the correspondence he had settled in France, he began to play deeper than

D

ever;

ever; though he had but a short time before lost 1400*l.* on account of the Spanish convention, which he received from Mrs. Rudd; and this sum, with their expences at Paris, amounted to at least 2000*l.* which all came out of her pocket. During Mr. Daniel Perreau's absence, his brother managed the business in Change Alley, and was almost as unfortunate as Daniel, as the latter found a ballance against him of 80*cl.* upon his return.

According to Mr. Perreau's intelligence there was such a certainty of a war taking place in the autumn of 1771, that he employed Messrs. Keble and Sadlier, insurance brokers to insure the war as deep as fourteen hundred pounds, which sum he accordingly lost. It seems that had he gained on this occasion, he was to have shared the profits with his brother and Colonel K——.

We have not had any occasion yet to mention the Miss Perreau's, sisters to the gentlemen whose memoirs we are laying before the reader. These ladies reside in the country, and having in Mr. Daniel Perreau's distress furnished him with money, judging from the grand appearance he

made, that he was in affluent circumstances, pressed him very hard for the repayment of it; and Mrs. Rudd with her usual friendship furnished him with 800*l.* with which he liquidated a debt due to his sisters Susan and Esther.

In April 1772, the Perreau's affairs became desperate, and Daniel pawned Mrs. Rudd's jewels for upwards of 500*l.* to pay a debt which he was out upon bail for. It appears however, that in the December following he had a tolerable run of luck, for he was then possessed of upwards of sixteen hundred pounds, and was so elated with his good fortune, that he bespoke a new coach.

About this time Mrs. Rudd made a tour to Scotland, to visit her relations, and during her absence fortune once more turned her wheel, and and drove Daniel to such desperate circumstances, that he was under the necessity of pawning all his plate; and even his own and Mrs. Rudd's wearing apparel. Upon her return she was greatly shocked at the situation of her affairs, being under the necessity of borrowing money of Mr. S —, a kinsman, who accompanied her from Scotland, to redeem her wearing apparel.

Soon

Soon after Mrs. Rudd's return from Scotland, she seemed to be seized with a fit of jealousy on account of a Miss H—ll, whom she discovered Mr. Perreau assisted with money, which the former claimed as her own. Indeed it must be acknowledged the circumstance was a little mortifying, to find a man with whom she lived upon the footing of a wife, by whom she had children, and whom she had been so very instrumental in supporting, squandering her money upon a lady of supposed easy virtue, which from her connexions there were great reasons to suspect. She passed for the sister of the celebrated Miss Lucy C—lls, who was generally believed to be kept by Mr. O——w.

This discovery did not however create an open rupture, though she could not help giving very striking hints that she suspected his fidelity. On his part, he pretended he visited Miss H—ll only as a friend, and at the request of Mr. O——w, whilst he was in the country, from whom he received remittances in her behalf.

During all this time a very friendly correspondence was still kept up between Mrs. Rudd, and Mrs. Robert Perreau; who treated the former

mer in every respect as a sister. Their intimacy was so great (as has already been observed) that they would often wear each others cloaths and Jewels. They visited in the same parties, and as no woman could behave with greater decency and politeness than Mrs. Rudd, she was never suspected of being allied to Mr. Perreau any other way than in matrimony, and was, therefore, treated with the greatest respect by women of rank and fashion. Notwithstanding the favourable reception she met with from the world in general, she could not refrain from having her moments of reflexion and disquietude from the situation she was in. She had sacrificed her person and fortune to a man, whom she too late found had played the hypocrite's part so well as to persuade her he had the strongest affection for her; that in this belief she had yielded to his intreaties and freely opened her purse to him; that she had now too much reason to believe he had formed a connexion with another woman, and that the period was approaching when he would throw off the mask, and disown her for his wife; that he would then shun and despise her; that her own relations would disown her, and her children be branded by all the world as bastards. Policy and prudence, however,

ever, induced her to put off the evil day, in hopes she might still reclaim him, and by her assiduities and affection compel him, through gratitude and parental affection, to treat her in a proper manner. With this view she consented to all that he proposed, strained every nerve to find resources for his wants, and prevent his affairs being blown upon.

When Mrs. Rudd first became acquainted with Mr. Daniel Perreau, he passed for a man of fortune, which was placed in the funds, to the amount of three hundred a year. She was entirely unacquainted with his having been a bankrupt; nor had she the least notion for a considerable time of his gaming in the Alley. But she soon detected the imposition in the first instance, and made discoveries in the latter, when, indeed it was too late. She had already been a mother by him, and had for some time passed for his wife. How then could she recede without proclaiming her own shame, and that of the unhappy infant?

There are frequently some latent circumstances in the lives of many people, that form the basis of their conduct, which is condemned
by

by the world, who are unacquainted with the causes of action. Had Mrs. Rudd fortunately escaped making an acquaintance with Mr. Perreau, her reputation would now have been spotless, as all the accusations that have been brought against her, except with respect to him, have only amounted to surmise. No man of the least honour, who has been happy in the embraces of a fine woman, whose character at most is problematical, would proclaim his good fortune at the expence of her reputation; and even her intimacy with Mr. S—dere, amounts to no more than that she kept his house and lived upon friendly terms with him. It was left for Mr. Daniel to fix the seal of disgrace upon her character, and prevent her having it in her power to lay any claim to chastity.

In such a situation as Mrs. Rudd's, it would not be surprising if she had retaliated upon her nominal husband's infidelity. If offers, importunities, attentions, and assiduities, could have prevailed, she certainly might have framed a very good excuse to have strayed from the common road of nice delicacy; or if even she had adopted the French line of female conduct, and according to the *Chesterfieldian* system, had
chosen

chosen a *cher ami*, the most scrupulous part of her sex upon the *bon ton* could not much have censured her. Colonel G——, Sir John S——, and many more suitors, did indirectly make her such propofals, as few women in her situation could have resisted. She heard them with complaisance and politeness, and replied with ease and good nature: but she had such a regard for her children, and was so desirous of supporting her own character, as well as that of her infants, that she rejected all these overtures, though she found means of turning them to the account of Mr. Perreau. When a man of considerable fortune makes such overtures to a woman in her state, he must not only dilate his compliments, but his purse strings, and though a woman may not chime in with his intentions, she may fairly avail herself of the opportunity that offers to extricate her from any temporary difficulties. Perreau's affairs were by this time desperate, she still entertained a very great regard for him, from more motives than sensual gratification, and she resolved to bring him through his difficulties if it were possible. She therefore, laid Sir John's, and the colonel's purse, under some contributions, but without yielding to the least concessions

concessions that could affect her honour or her reputation.

Such a line of conduct few women would have pursued in her situation, Mr. Perreau, without enquiring from whence these resources arose, availed himself of them as long as they could be produced. The Alley felt the benefits of them, and even the great F-rd-ce was not unacquainted with their value.

Another drain of Mrs. Rudd's pocket was his *useful* correspondence abroad. He had not only emissaries at Paris, but at St. Omers, and other parts of France. Although their intelligence was of no utility to him, they expected and received certain stipends fixed upon, at stated times. So many draw-backs upon the remaining capital of the Perreaus, soon brought them to such a state as compelled them to take measures which were much against their dispositions. Admiral F——d had for a long time entertained a partial regard for all the family, and particularly Daniel. He was at this time upon the point of purchasing a house in Newman Street, and wanted a loan of 4000l. a bond was offered the Admiral, whether true or false we shall not pre-

E

tend

tend to determine; but the money was procured, and the house purchased,

No sooner was Daniel in possession of this elegant house, than it was necessary to repair to an upholsterer to furnish it in a manner suitable to the dignity of the mansion. Accordingly in a few days the house was fitted up in a most superb manner. The carvers, gilders, and other operators in this kind, were immediately set to work, and in a short time put it in all the splendour of a nobleman's hôtel.

The tendency of his genius prevailed in every thing; furniture, carriages, entertainments, and amusements. One lucky hit at this time aided him in his pursuits, and Mrs. Rudd was again reconciled to her fate.

It has astonished many people that Mrs Robert Perreau should, since a late transaction, pretend that she was ignorant till the late discovery was made, that Mrs. Rudd was not married to Mr. Daniel Perreau, and that she considers it as a high piece of insolence in Mrs. Rudd, to have been introduced to her under a specious character. Though it is not designed
to

to throw any slur on Mrs. Robert Perreau's conduct or character, as the writer of these pages believes them to be both irreproachable; yet he cannot help thinking that this is rather an ill timed piece of pride, which will induce people to enquire who Mrs. Robert Perreau originally was, and this will lead to a discovery that she is the daughter of a West India Apothecary, and lived with a relation and namesake of the Perreaus in Tavistock Street. This remark is rather meant as a hint than a reproach to that lady, and it is to be wished, she may in future profit by it. At the same time we cannot approve of Mrs. Rudd's descending so low as to accuse this lady in the public papers, with detaining two of her gowns, after she had sent a written order, by Mr. Bailey her council, for them. It is true she has since acknowledged that they have been returned her; but the first accusation carries with it too much the face of rancour, and rather injures than promotes the cause.

At the time that the countess of Dun—ff made so much noise as a woman of intrigue, she found means to get introduced to Mrs. Rudd as a woman of fashion, and by her insinuating address endeavoured to persuade the latter, that she

she had it in her power, not only to introduce her to the D. of C. but that most probably she might marry him. This was after his affair with Lady G——r. That Lady D——ff must have been acquainted with Mrs. Rudd's being only the nominal wife of Mr. Perreau is, from this circumstance, certain; but that she was ignorant of her real marriage with Captain R——, must also appear obvious. This very extraordinary intimation to Mrs. Rudd in her situation, could not fail greatly embarrassing her; she knew not what reply to make, there was no affront in the proposal, and yet, there was an insinuation in it, that Lady D—— was apprised of the terms upon which she lived with Mr. Daniel Perreau. She excused herself, however, by saying that her present engagements would not allow her to be introduced to the Prince with any such view.

It is, nevertheless, certain that she fell in company with him at the Countess's, and that he paid her many compliments; but we may venture to affirm that nothing farther passed than mere compliments. The Prince offered her a very handsome snuff-box, which Mrs. Rudd declined accepting,

From

From such events as these, most probably, have arisen the various reports that have been propagated concerning Mrs. Rudd's intrigues since her connexion with Mr. Perreau; and it therefore behoves the writer of these memoirs, to place such transactions in their true light.

Mrs. Rudd has publicly declared " I have always said, that I never thought Daniel Perreau a man of fortune; when we came together he told me his income was 300l. a year, the principal in the funds. This inferiority of fortune gave me pleasure; as it afforded me an opportunity of proving the disinterestedness of my attachment and the supreme felicity of obliging him by a delicate, well-timed generosity.—The *manner*, more than the gift, confers the obligation.—My feelings on this point have ever been so refined, that while he preserved *even the shadow* of decorum in his frequent calls for money, I studied to know his wants, to relieve them *unasked*, and thereby spare his and my own sensibility the pain of discussing so unpleasing a topic. In his happiness I placed mine; I therefore valued fortune but in proportion as it contributed to his ease and credit."

" From

“ From the moment we lived together I considered myself in every sense his wife, (there was then a reason why it was impossible for us to be married) and practised the virtues and duties of one in the fullest sense. I defy the most rigid nicety to point out any instance or action in my conduct, wherein I was not the affectionate, faithful wife; the tender, good mother; the generous friend, and respected acquaintance. Whilst I was charged with domestic matters (which was near four years) I managed our family with genteel frugality? attempted no parade or finery beyond the reach of my finances, and paid all trades people within my department punctually; nor can malice itself disprove what I here assert, or any part of my story. *Truth* and incontrovertible facts will ever prevail over falsehood and *fabricated scandal*; upon that solid basis I found and rest my justification. I am not the first woman of character, who (without being an idiot) has been deceived by specious professions and appearances, or suffered the tenderest of all sentiments to subdue her reason and lull her prudence: but I believe I am the only one who ever was treated with such unmerited treachery, hypocrisy, and infernal wickedness;—let me hope, for the honour of human nature,

ture, that there does not exist another Daniel Perreau."

Such are Mrs. Rudd's sentiments with regard to this gentleman ; how far they are founded in justice, the following examinations will ascertain.

A circumstantial Account of the Examination of Robert and Daniel Perreau, for Forgery, at the Guildhall, Westminster, on Wednesday the 15th of March.

Soon after eleven, Robert and Daniel Perreau, and Mrs. Rudd, were put to the bar, and the following matters given in evidence :—A bond, as of Mr. Adair the agent, to Robert Perreau, was produced, when Mr. Wilson, a scrivener, swore that he drew that bond on an Application from Daniel Perreau, Mr. Wheatley, at Mr. Drummond's, Banker, Charing-Cross, swore that Robert Perreau, asked him to lend him 5000l. on this bond ; but Mr. Wheatley doubting whether it was Mr. Adair's writing, Perreau said he had not seen Adair execute it, and went away, but returned in two hours, saying that Mr. Adair had acknowledged the signature ; but Mr. Wheatley still doubted, and Mr. Stephens,
of

of the Admiralty, coming in, said it was not Mr. Adair's writing. Mr. Wheatley now went in Daniel Perreau's coach to Mr. Adair, who denied the bond to be his; but previously to this, Daniel Perreau had produced a letter of business, signed W. A. as from Mr. Adair, and treating of money matters. To this charge Daniel Perreau said he had never seen the bond till in Mr. Drummond's hand in Adair's house, and denied having employed Wilson to draw the bond. Wilson was desired to fix on his employer; he hesitated on account of the likeness between the brothers (which was indeed striking) but he firmly believed (on their being separated) that Daniel Perreau was his employer. Robert Perreau in his defence said, that when he carried the bond to Mr. Drummond's he believed it to be good and valid, and had no intention to defraud. Messrs. Drummond, Wheatley, Ogilby, and Wilson were bound to prosecute Daniel Perreau for causing the bond to be made, and Robert for publishing it knowing it to be forged.

The next charge was against Daniel Perreau for defrauding Dr. Brooks of 1500*l.* for which another Bond, as of Mr. Adair, was lodged as security. Dr. Brooks not having cash by him, had

had advanced bonds of the bank of Air to the above amount. For this offence Dr. Brookes, and Messrs. Ogilby and Wilson were bound to prosecute Daniel Perreau for counterfeiting and publishing.

Sir Thomas Frankland now deposed, that in May last, Robert Perreau had borrowed 4000l. of him, as on a bond of Mr. Adair's, which was paid four days before due : That in November last, he applied, by letter, for 5300l. which Sir Thomas wrote to his banker to pay, and which was advanced on Robert Perreau's note, and the lodging a bond (as of Adair's) for counter security. For this offence Sir Thomas Frankland, and Messrs. Ogilby and Wilson were bound to prosecute.

Mrs. Rudd on her declaring her resolution to speak the truth, was admitted evidence for the Crown; when she said, that a few days before the bond had been presented at Mr. Drummond's, she received it of Robert Perreau, who said it was a paper of consequence, and to whom she afterwards delivered it; but that she knew not the contents till she saw it at Mr. Adair's, where she had spoken differently from what she now

F

did,

did, fearing to affect the life of Robert Perreau. The two brothers were committed to New Prison, and Mrs. Rudd to Tothil-Fields Bridewell.

Mrs. Rudd was in great agitation during examination. She was elegantly dressed in a striped silk night gown, with a pink and ermine cloak, and a black laced bonnet. The two brothers were fashionably habited, one in a brown, and the other in a slate coloured frock, with gold laced hats. They are twins, and appear to be about 40 years of age.

On Wednesday evening, at six o'clock, the information of Mrs. Rudd, the woman who lived with the younger Perreau, mentioned above, was taken before Justice Wright and Justice Addington, at the Public Office in Bow-Street. But being free, unrestrained, and uninfluenced, she gave, it is said, the following account of herself, and what she knew of the two brothers. She said that she was the daughter of one of the first noblemen in Scotland; that she had been married to a Mr. Rudd, from whom, at their parting, she was entitled and really had 13,000*l.* in money and jewels, all of which she gave to Mr. Daniel Perreau. That she never
thought

thought him a man of great fortune, but always understood, that he had about 300l. a year: That about the time there was a noise relative to Falkland's Island, Mr. Daniel Perreau lost 1400l. by dealing in the Alley; that he was uneasy and could not sleep at nights on that account, as he informed her. It was then that she first learned he dealt in the Alley, which he said he did with much success; so that if ever she saw a profusion of money, she always supposed Mr. Perreau had made a fortunate hit in the Alley. She said, she had a great regard for him, and that she has had three children by him. His brother, Mr. Robert Perreau, she said, has always behaved so kind and tenderly to her, that till the last instance of cruelty, in charging her with knowing any thing of these bonds, she would have laid down her life to serve him. Since this affair has been discovered, they had from her a gold watch that cost her 60l. her purse, containing twenty guineas, and she paid the coach hire to Sir John Fielding's, she said, before they were apprehended, they were all in a coach together going off; but Mr. Robert Perreau making some excuse to step a little way about business, left his brother and her in the coach, and went to Bow-Street to lay an information

ation against her, where being detained, he sent for her and the brother to clear him, and they have never since had their liberty.

March 17, Margaret Rudd was re-examined, as a witness for the Crown, touching the forgery, and publication of the forgery, with intent to defraud Mr. Drummond, for which (among other charges) Daniel and Robert Perreau are now in prison. Her information was taken in writing and read over to her. In it she deposes, " That she knew the two Perreaus for some years; that she cohabited with Daniel, and had three children by him; that sometime since Robert brought her a bond, drawn up in the penal sum of 15,000*l.* and purporting to be payable from William Adair, Esq; to Robert Perreau; that it was dated January 25, 1775, and was made due the 25th of July next; that he at the same time produced a letter signed William Adair, and asked her if she could write like the signature; that he told her she must subscribe the name of William Adair to the bond; that unless he could raise 5000*l.* immediately, his life would be in danger; that he said, another person was to have signed it, but he was out of the way; that she desired him to
leave

leave the bond, which he did; that when D. Perreau came home, she told him what had passed; that he then enforced his brother's request, and that both of them, at different times, repeated their intreaties till Monday the 6th of March, when Daniel said the matter was now so pressing, that he would not be denied; that she professed a sincere regard to serve either him or his brother, but on her knees implored him not to oblige her to forge the name; that he drew a knife out of his pocket, held it in a threatening posture over her head, and swore, that as his brother's and his own life depended on the execution of that bond, and as he was sure Mr. Drummond would lend his brother the money if Mr. Adair's name was to it, he would kill her if she did not write it; that in consequence of that threat she subscribed the words *William Adair*, but did not write the names of the witnesses, nor does she know who did." To this information she was sworn in a very solemn manner by Sir John Fielding. She farther acknowledged that she had received 4000l. from Robert Perreau, which he had raised from Sir Thomas Frankland, and which she gave, by his direction, to his brother Daniel, who wanted it to pay for the purchase of his house in Harley

ley Street, Cavendish Square; she declared she never heard of any other bond but that offered to Mr. Drummond; and that Robert had said he would borrow 4000*l.* of Sir Thomas, who was an old friend, and he did not doubt would lend the money on his own security, as he imagined him to be a man of property. James Adair, Esq; of Soho Square, was sworn, and declared that last week, after the éclarcissement at Mr. William Adair's, Mrs. Rudd, (whose uncle was his distant relation) came to him and told him, that her husband was a wicked villain, and had forced her to commit a forgery. Mrs. Rudd was admitted to bail; entering into a recognizance for 200*l.* herself, and two sureties entering into recognizances for 100*l.* each.

How far this detail of Mrs. Rudd's is to be credited is difficult to say, as according to her account there was no body present but herself, and Mr. Daniel Perreau, at the time he held the knife to threaten her; and he must not only have been a very passionate, but a very weak man to imagine that in such a situation, when a tremor must necessarily have seized her, and prevented her writing her own name in her usual manner, she could be sufficiently expert to imitate that
of

of another in so nice a manner as to avoid detection. If we can believe that he would go such lengths to force Mrs. Rudd to commit a forgery, it may easily be credited that he could form a design against her life, for the commission of it. But may not this account be exaggerated by resentment for the injury her fortune had suffered in the Alley through his and Mr. Robert Perreau's means? and can we not trace a glimpse of jealousy, where she says in one of her exculpatory letters, "It is a well known truth, that the sufferings of the mind will powerfully affect the body. This was my case. A series of afflicting events had, ever since my living with P. tortured and kept me in a state of distressing agitation, which gradually impaired my health. I was much indisposed all that summer (1773.) In the latter end of August he went to Paris with two gentlemen, (as he said) on purpose to form an intimacy with them, whereby he should be furnished with undoubted good intelligence to job upon; likewise to settle a plan of correspondence there with some private friends of his.

"In his absence a relation, who knew me from my infancy, came to visit me; a man of fine sense,

great

great experience, intelligent and penetrating; he told me Mr. Perreau's *real* circumstances, his character and whole conduct. This was the very first intimation I ever had of his bankruptcy: in one word, he fully proved that D. had made a prey of my money to gamble and fortune hunt with; that during the first two years of our connexion, he particularly addressed three Ladies, of handsome fortunes, which he and his family had practised every possible art and means to succeed with. Admonished me to exert myself, as I was now declared his wife, known universally as such, and to have henceforth a proper intercourse with his family, which would effectually prevent any of the like attempts in future. Being so nicely circumstanced, I must endeavour to forget the past, and make the best of evils I could not redress. To effect which, it was absolutely proper to be no longer duped by his artifices; to see with my own eyes, and act from the dictates of my own reason. Shocked and amazed beyond expression at these discoveries, I was deprived the power of utterance, and could only thank my kind adviser with tears. Roused now to examine as far as possible into P's affairs, I looked into the drawer which contained his private papers, there I saw his certificate signed
the

the fourth of May, 1770, and many other things that convinced me fully of the truths I had just heard. This piercing stroke entirely destroyed the little health I had, and hurried me into a dangerous consumption. Robert Perreau, at this crisis, came often to see me, though prejudiced in his disfavour, from the cause I have before assigned, upon a more intimate acquaintance I found him sensible and well bred; the world spoke him a man of integrity and discretion, much esteemed, and of great reputation in his profession."

Nevertheless, we find she soon after forgave him all past injuries, and appeared again as fond of him as ever. These are her words. "When Daniel Perreau returned from France, the beginning of October, I was so ill, that Doctor Brooke advised country air, and strict regimen, as the only means to save me. We went to Kentish Town, staid there till near Christmas. Here Daniel shewed much contrition for his past errors; made the most solemn protestations of an entire reformation; expressed such tender sorrow for my sufferings and indisposition; attended, watched over me with such affectionate assiduity, that I forgot

G

every

every thing disagreeable, and only thought of and felt his present goodness. But this happiness soon vanished."

This favourable opinion of Mr. Daniel Perreau did not, however, long continue, as she complains of his ill treatment as well as his consummate vanity in the following lines. " I continued dangerously ill all the winter. The twenty-fifth of April, 1774, I was delivered of my youngest child. As soon as I could be safely removed, it was judged absolutely requisite, for the benefit of my health, to go into the country. I proposed for us to hire a small, ready furnished house, sufficient to lodge ourselves and children decently. This humble proposal did not suit his consummate vanity, and ill-judged ridiculous extravagance. He answered me with great acrimony, That while he had been dependent upon my fortune, he submitted to my governing our domestic expences, and stile of living; but that being now entirely independent of me, he would please himself; that he was in a prosperous certain way of acquiring a considerable fortune; therefore was resolved to spend and live like a man of affluence. From this speech I very naturally concluded, he

was

was at last possessed of what he had been in pursuit of for years, viz. good political information, whereby he could not fail in realizing the riches he spoke so confidently of; every one who knows any thing of 'Change-Alley, knows that numbers have, and actually do, make fortunes out of it. Upon this assurance I remained satisfied of its being really the case; consequently whatever expences he engaged in since, did not surprize, nor could not appear mysterious to me: the scheme of turning Broker of course ceased."

Speaking of Mrs. Robert Perreau, Mrs. Rudd upbraids her in the following words. "I likewise, 'till the late affair, found Mrs. Perreau extremely amiable, sincere, and unaffected; exclusive of relationship, I esteemed and loved her; how she has prevailed upon herself to propagate detestable and indelicate truths, is a species of mean depravity which exceedingly surprizes me."

We find too till this late discovery, she was reconciled to Mr. Robert Perreau, notwithstanding the injurious treatment she had received by his sharing the produce of her fortune, when
successful

successful in the alley, and remaining unhurt in his, when the chance was against him. "I therefore, without hesitation, gave him a candid circumstantial detail of every thing relative to myself and his brother; I even related what had happened between Mr. Rudd and me; his profligacy, insanity, and the personal abuses I received from him, which occasioned our final separation. He seemed much affected at the melancholy recital, and with apparent sincerity, replied, He was infinitely surprized, nay, shocked, at his brother's behaviour, which was highly reprehensible; that Daniel had always been so reserved about me, that, though he saw there was somewhat unusual and mysterious in the connection, he restrained his curiosity, and avoided asking any questions of him upon the subject. He vowed, with regard to money transactions, Daniel had given him to understand, he made a capital sum at the time of the convention of Falkland Island, of course, he thought it was the said money he played with, and lived upon from that time to this; assured me of his best services, and that he would express his sentiments very freely to Daniel, and endeavour to bring him to a just sense of the respect and grateful affection due to me; likewise

wife consult his wife to account for our marriage being so long a secret, to prevent impertinent surmises. This behaviour very justly impressed me with the best opinion of the goodness of his heart and understanding. From that moment, until the affair of the Bond, and the conspiracy against my life, I felt for him the greatest esteem and sisterly affection, upon all occasions. 'Till then he discovered the like for me; treated me with so much tenderness and attentive care in my illness; spoke every where so handsomely of me, that I *really* would have done any thing that could not touch my life or honour, to oblige and serve him."

This declaration of Robert's, with regard to his brother's making a capital sum in the Alley, at the time of the Convention respecting Falkland's Island, must either be a mistake on the side of Mrs. Rudd, or the summit of hypocrisy in Mr. Perreau, as it was this very fatal stroke that gave the most violent shock to their finances.

At the same time that we cannot but lament that Mrs. Rudd did not follow the advice of her uncle which he so strenuously enforced; it must be acknowledged, that female vanity seems to have

have got the better of her judgment in the following passage.

“ At this time my uncle Stewart having heard of my situation, wrote to me, representing in the most affecting, parental terms the imprudent impropriety of my attachment, that should it ever from design or chance be discovered an illicit connection, the disgrace it would reflect on me; that my fortune being independant and sufficient to support me in elegance I was totally inexcusable, and unless I made myself an alien and outcast for ever to my friends and family, I must instantly determine either to quit Mr. Perreau, and return to my family, or declare ourselves married, in either case he would be reconciled to and receive me with respect. At this period I was a mother, part of my fortune squandered, my heart still devoted to Daniel, to which the forcible endearing tie of father to my child contributed much; therefore paternal duty, love and discretion, fixed my choice of the latter. Agreeable to this, I went to Edinburgh, in December, 1772, *where my uncle Stewart and his family met me; there I not only saw and was caressed by my relations, but also acquired many friends, persons of the first sense and consequence, whom I can take upon me to aver, both respected*
and

and loved me; nor can I suppose they will now do otherwise, as their esteem arose from a knowledge of the excellencies of my heart and disposition, and what they were pleased to term the amiableness of my manners, qualities which neither villainy nor misfortune can rob me of.

We find that Mr. Daniel Perreau's losses and extravagance constantly preyed upon her mind, and in the same letter she expresses it in very forcible terms. She says: "The losses incurred in the stocks in my absence, and the distressful situation I found Mr. Perreau in at my return, in consequence of them, drove me almost to distraction. A mere trifle, comparatively speaking, of my fortune now remained. Indigence and shame stared me in the face. In short, I was every way ruined. For after the step I had just taken with my family, on what pretext could I separate from Daniel? and how could he maintain me and our children? (we then had two.) At last, as the only thing to be devised, he agreed, on my paying certain debts, which would preserve his credit, that with the residue he would commence stock-broker. However, this plan required time to negotiate and put in practice, especially as he proposed going into partnership with some established one.—Humiliating

liating as this must appear to a woman of elegance, cruel necessity compelled me not only to assent, but view it in an advantageous light, as a resource from penury and reproach."

This plan, we find, however, he soon laid aside, under pretence of having discovered other resources, which have but too visibly appeared in the course of the different examinations.

In order to illustrate this matter as far as possible, we shall lay before the reader the following letter, that has since appeared from Mrs. Rudd.

To the Printer of the Morning Post.

" S I R,

" The remaining part of my Case, promised in your Paper of this day, I have, on more mature consideration, resolved to postpone, as it must have been chiefly on a subject so interesting to the Messrs. Perreaus; (viz. their whole behaviour to, and conversation with me, from the day Mr. Drummond made the discovery to the time I was brought to Sir John Fielding's) therefore I defer it from motives of compassion,

compassion, and a fervent, sincere wish to avoid saying or doing aught which might possibly prejudice them in the minds of the Public (or appear to aim at doing so) previous to their trial.

“ What I have hitherto related had no connection with this last unhappy affair, being merely an explicit true account of myself and conduct, prior to the exposure of that matter, and to prove by demonstrated facts how falsely my enemies represented me, and how undeservedly I was persecuted and traduced by them. Such people may be justly termed the assassins of reputation, and who, like Milton's Serpent, envious of superior goodness and happiness, plan to destroy, and endeavour to make the world believe others are as bad as themselves.

“ I know at this moment the Perreaus are concerting abominable falsehoods, whereby they hope to blacken my character, and devising every possible scheme to further distress and ruin me; yet, for the reasons assigned above, even this, added to my former most cruel injuries, I shall not make resentment prevail over the tender, powerful sense I have of humanity and

H

lenity,

lenity, even to my inveterate foes; I trust in God I shall ever have strength of mind enough to practise towards them these virtues.

“I am, Sir,

“Your most obedient servant,

“M. C. RUDD.”

“P. S. In a few days, you will receive from me an attested account by what means I became possessed of the 13000l. mentioned (and nearly accounted how it was expended) in the first part of my Case. I hear it has been observed in some News-papers, that I contradicted myself, by first saying I was now left to absolute beggary, and just afterwards in the same letter, used the following words: “That I must vindicate the little property I could yet call my own.” The explanation is plain: Mr. Perreau’s assigning his house to Sir Thomas Frankland, and all my personals, furniture, &c. being therein, and which the said Baronet has detained, and still persists in keeping, I say, has left me at present, to absolute beggary, and want of even the common necessities of life; I have not a decent change of cloaths nor what the meanest of my sex would think so, and I do, and have ever since my enlargement, lived on the charity of two humane people (whose names shall be hereafter

after told), otherwise I should not have bread to eat, and must beg in the streets, or starve.

“ As Sir Thomas has no more right to my cloaths or any part of my property than he has to yours, or any person's that he never heard of, I presume he thinks my poverty secures him from the power of the law ; however, he will soon find himself mistaken ; I will not only have my right from him, but expose his whole behaviour to me upon this occasion.”

Mrs. Rudd has, nevertheless, since published another letter, in which she says, she shall not account for the manner in which she obtained the thirteen thousand pounds, (so often alledged to have been squandered in 'Change Alley, and elsewhere, by the Perreaus) till after their trial. This kind of lenity, which cannot be of any kind of service to them, after attesting all that she has against them, gives the whole a very mysterious air. She was not compelled to account for the manner in which she obtained this, or any other sum ; it was a voluntary declaration, which she bound herself to fulfil, and which she seems now very unwilling to perform. It is pretty certain, that she did not obtain it by
patrimonial

patrimonial inheritance; it is also very certain, that her husband was not a man of any considerable property, or if he had been, as he is separated from his wife, he wou'd scarcely suffer her to remain in possession of all his property, to give it to his rival and *cornuter*, to squander in the Alley. She declares, that she never thought Daniel Perreau to be a man of great fortune; and, that instead of receiving any pecuniary assistance from him, she is ruined by him. How then did these 13000l. arise? But Mrs. Rudd is a lady, and politeness compels us to wait with patience for her own explanation.

Having brought this narrative to a period, there is little more to add, but a few remarks on the behaviour of Messrs Perreaus since their confinement, and to refute some injurious accusations that have been spread against them. It has been said that Daniel resolved to starve himself, and would take no nutriment. On the contrary, he is very chearful, eats and drinks in moderation, and receives the visits of his particular friends, to whom he behaves with great propriety and politeness. Mr. Robert Perreau has not only settled all his private affairs, but made every possible provision for his family, having agreed to
accept

accept from the Apothecary's Company, 150l. for his share of stock for their benefit, on condition that he may re-purchase, if he should be acquitted on his trial. This circumstance, which is incontestible, evinces, that many allegations to his prejudice are groundless; and though he may be guilty of many errors, many more are ascribed to him of which he is entirely innocent.

He seems conscious of his own innocence, and waits the decision of justice with a becoming philosophic resignation. His lady often visits him, and affords him a well-timed solace.

Here we intended to drop the pen, being unwilling to add any thing that may injure either of the parties. We have adhered to truth, to the best of our judgment, and such observations as have been made, have arisen entirely out of the subject, without wandering from the main purpose; but some particulars that have since come to our knowledge, require mentioning.

These Memoirs might appear imperfect, if a very extraordinary Letter that has appeared in the Papers should be omitted here. It is an Epistle of JOHN STEWART, Uncle to Mrs. Rudd, and who had early adopted her as a Parent before her marriage, when she was still
Miss

Miss Youngson (for family Reasons bearing her Mother's Name), and at that Time a celebrated Toast with a Character as untainted as her Mind.

JOHN STEWART, Esq; of Balimoran, County of Down, Ireland; to Mr. DANIEL PERREAU, late of Harley-street, London.

“ S I R,

“ MRS. RUDD's tenderness and mercy to you and your brother, shall not deter me from publishing my sentiments of you, your family, advisers and colleagues, and exposing the numerous arts you *jointly and separately* practised, to work upon her compassionate, feeling heart, and affection for you, to *persist* in saying she gave your bond to Robert, without telling the other facts of her having *first* received it *from him* and all the minutiae of that black transaction; also on the Wednesday (after being at Mr. Adair's in Pall Mall) how you *then*, to excite her compassion farther, and raise her fears still more for your lives, discovered Sir Thomas Frankland's having the like bonds with Robert's notes as collateral security; *pretended* to go to Mr. Henry Dagge, *only* (as you told her) in order to consult him which way to raise money on your own effects to pay

pay Sir Thomas, to prevent your brother becoming a bankrupt, and liable to a prosecution from the baronet. That apprehending your brother was safe in regard to Mr. Drummond, every thing would be silenced, could Sir Thomas be paid. You told her that Mr. Dagge had great influence with Mr. Drummond, and was also a *weak, credulous man*; of course would readily credit the *fabulous*, absurd story you manufactured to tell him, and most artfully prevailed with this deluded, innocent woman to countenance and corroborate, by repeating it after you to him, and before *each*; assuring her with solemn imprecations that you meant nothing by this application and story to Dagge, but to get money for Sir Thomas, and save your credits, and if necessary make a friend of him to shuffle the affair with Mr. Drummond; and she, (as a woman) being entirely ignorant of *such* matters and the consequence to herself of adopting your advice, also from affection and what she religiously believed her absolute duty as your wife, complied with your desires; for *your wife* she was in every moral sense, in the sight of man, and from her strict invariable adherence to, and practice of, all the duties and virtues of one. I believe the subtlest casuist, or greatest devotee,

votee, will allow her to have been such in the sight of God; therefore her mind must be on this and all occasions under the *same ascendancy* as if the priest had joined your hands: her *person* and *reputation* should with you have been as *sacred*.

The part you acted in this deep conspiracy; the disavowing her for your wife; stripping her of all her property, valuables, &c. forcibly preventing her going to consult a lawyer (though she conjured you on her knees only to be permitted to know how far her own life was safe in doing what you desired;) and when alarmed by the most flagrant appearances of some underhand schemes, by the conduct and speeches of your brother and Dagge; and finally the horrid attempt to bring her to an ignominious death, in order to exonerate and save yourselves, give you, Sir, the *pre-eminence in wickedness*, to all the villains I ever heard or read of. Mankind must blush to see a fellow-creature so degenerate; and posterity will surely curse the authors of such a complicated, dark, infernal, crime.

I shall now mention one thing, amongst the many in my power, to strike, if possible, daggers

gers into your mind ; I mean your unnatural, brutal conduct to your present offspring, those beautiful infants, who, you and your brother said, might go to a workhouse, when Sir T. F——d asked how you would have them disposed of, upon his taking possession of your house,—Detestable brutes! did you consider that these little innocents had from their birth been reared with careful delicacy, attended and served with elegance; and you, most unnatural, cruel father! did you reflect they were your own children, and that their mother had given you in cash and effects, sixteen thousand pounds, which you basely squandered; and which ought to have been preserved for her support and theirs!

Now, Sir, is it possible to conceive that impudent ignorance could be carried so far, as I am sorry to say it is, in your brother Robert's wife declaring, she thought herself affronted at Mrs. Rudd's being introduced to her as a sister-in-law? Fine affected madam! I suppose she derived those *high* sentiments from the *noble* descent of a West Indian parson's daughter, and the *elegant education* given her under the care and direction of the late Mrs. Perreau's, *Milliners,*

ners, in Tavistock Street.—Such little *gentry* are a *pest* to superior society, and a *burlesque* on the *name* of gentlewoman.

But it avails not to preach with people lost to honour and principle; I have left my family, and come a long journey for more efficacious purposes; resolved to *detect* and *expose* villainy; *protect* injured innocence; and as far as law, justice, and the personal power of man can go, to revenge my niece upon her *intended* murderers, the actual plunderers of her fortune, and defamers of her character; for her wrongs make my aged heart bleed at every vein.—I was the guardian of her youth (an orphan at eight years old)—she knew no other parent; I ever loved her as such, and she was all the fondest one could wish; sensible, an elegant accomplished mind, graced with every female virtue; beautiful, well-bred, and, to use the poet's words, of gentle manners, as a soul sincere." My misery is inexpressible, to see this child of my affection, in her bloom of life, and full perfection of sense, crushed, sunk into the lowest abyss of misfortune.—I pray God to support me under this weighty affliction, and graciously preserve me to see her redressed.

JOHN STEWART.

Upon this letter we shall make no other comment, than to observe that at a time when Messrs. Perreaus were under confinement, to attack Mr. Daniel in so violent a manner may look like spleen and ill-nature; and the more so as it would not become him to answer it at this juncture. Besides, as he is suspected of being criminal, with regard to the forgery, the world would not give him credit for a defence however just. Prejudice is too apt to operate, where only the appearance of guilt is in view; and after the many injurious aspersions thrown out by Mrs. Rudd, this letter would have appeared with a better grace after their trial than before.

In justice to Mr. Daniel Perreau, it must be acknowledged, notwithstanding the many charges that have been brought against him of his extravagance and dissipation, whilst he was in partnership with Mr. Jollie, at Guadaloupe; that the above gentleman has ever acquitted him of any such misconduct; their misfortunes and their failure arising entirely from the stoppage of a considerable house in London.

The peculiar indulgence Messrs. Perreaus have received of not being brought to Newgate till

till the day of their trial, is by some judged to be the effect of great interest amongst some persons in very considerable power. It is certain that they were till the late affair, held in great esteem amongst many of the nobility. Mr. Robert Perreau, by his profession got access to many persons of rank, who were his patients, and who from his agreeable conversation, and genteel behaviour, treated him as an acquaintance and friend. He accordingly had frequent invitations to their tables, and in return was often honoured with their visits. It is well attested that a certain amiable Dutchess, * who is at once an ornament to her sex, and to human nature, upon hearing of Mr. Robert's confinement swooned away, and remained greatly affected for some time. Nor is this event any way extraordinary, when her Grace's humanity and sympathy for every one in distress is considered; for no sooner is she convinced of real distress, than her purse strings are dilated, and she anticipates application.

The public entertain various opinions of the conduct of Mrs. Rudd, whilst some who give entire credit to her story in its fullest latitude, think she may be fairly justified in recriminating upon

* The present Dutchess of B——gh.

upon the Perreaus after they twice attempted her life; others who are not so credulous, and think that although there may be some foundation for her allegations, nevertheless are of opinion, that as she is the mother of three children by Daniel, it must be the highest pitch of folly to attempt rendering these little innocents fatherless, in desiring to deprive him of life, by her appearance against him. The fine feelings she so much boasts of must here be called in question, and a vindictive spirit be evinced, that will do no honour either to her delicacy or maternal affection.

As the period is now so near, when her conduct will be put to the test, we shall wait with patience for the issue, hoping that the tenderness of a mother, and the delicacy of her sex, may remain without reproach.

Mrs. Rudd is universally judged a lady of sense and wit; her repartees and *bon mots* are often related; her smart answers to her lovers and admirers are mentioned as strokes of humour and pleasantry scarcely to be equalled; but she has never till lately appeared as an authoress; her name has been repeatedly subscribed to various letters in her own vindication, and to accuse

cuse the Perreaus of insincerity, treachery, and the like. Yet many people are so incredulous as to doubt, whether these letters are really and *bona fide* her own writing. Nevertheless it has been suggested, as she has declared her poverty, and the necessitous state of her affairs, it cannot be supposed that she can afford to pay a mercenary scribe for setting forth her case, as she calls it, to the public. Some indeed have hazarded, what we would chuse to hint, that a fine woman can always repay any obligation without money. But the misfortune is, that a needy garretter, is generally in such an *elevated* state, that he would rather see a furloin of beef, than all the beauties of Ranelagh.

Messrs. Perreau, who are now in their fortieth year of their age, having lived a very regular life, are possessed of excellent constitutions. Nevertheless, the anxiety that their minds must necessarily labour under, and the agitation of an approaching trial upon so awful an occasion, cannot have failed, in some degree, to have disturbed their rest and diminished their appetite; though they have both borne up their misfortunes very philosophically; particularly Mr. Robert Perreau. Hence, however, many idle reports

ports have been spread, such as their resolving to starve themselves to death, &c. &c.

Several gentlemen who have visited them during their confinement, can attest, that they behave with serenity and a becoming fortitude; and that they smile at the malice of their enemies, as they are sensible that an English jury will not be influenced by *ipse dixit*s, and injurious reports.

We shall conclude this narrative with informing the reader, that the design of this publication at this period, so far from being with a view to prejudice the world against these gentlemen, that it was chiefly with the design of preventing effects that might have arisen from any spurious publication which may have been written to their prejudice.

F I N I S.

Ex. C. S.
6/2 4/29

John J. ...
...

Several gentlemen who have been
 making their comments on the
 above will likely find a
 and that they look as if
 as they are likely to be
 and they are likely to be

[illegible]

1111